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Park City Daily News

9-19-57

WESTERN OBTAINS RUSSELLVILLE ROAD PROPERTY

Five plots of ground at Russellville Road and 16th Street were deeded to the Commonwealth of Kentucky today for use by Western State College.

The land and improvements were purchased for \$52,305.

The college has immediate plans for constructing a new women's residence hall on part of the land.

Two plots lie north of 16th. Street. The other three plots adjoin the present baseball field, football practice field and tennis courts.

Deeding the parcels were Ida Belle Johnson, Will Taylor, Harry Taylor, Ellen Taylor Alexander and Linnie Cox.

Western's Board of Regents on July 22 ordered condemnation proceedings to obtain the land. The plots contain residences at present.

PCDN

2-6-64

Ed. - Western - 64

HEARING SET ON WESTERN'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS

A hearing on Western State College's development plan will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission in the county courtroom of the Warren County Courthouse at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.

The public hearing has been called in interest of the Urban Renewal Commission, whose executive director, Charles Cherches said it will concern the entire Western campus as presently situated and the Jonesville Urban Renewal development area which the college hopes to acquire.

The hearing will be to determine if the development plans for the campus and the urban renewal project area conform to the master development plan of the city.

Final approval of the Jonesville project plans, now under review by federal officials, is expected within the next two months.

Planning Advances Announced

*Park City Daily News
Thursday, July 18, 1962*

Almost \$2 Million In Federal Funds Set For Renewal Work

Federal funds totaling nearly \$2 million have been earmarked for urban renewal projects in Bowling Green, according to an announcement yesterday by U.S. Rep. William H. Natcher.

* * *

Natcher, in telegrams to the Daily News and Mayor R. D. Graham, said the Urban Renewal Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency had announced advances of \$50,245 to prepare the Northside General Neighborhood Renewal Plan, and a \$45,000 advance for survey and planning activities for "Jonesville."

In addition to the planning advances, the sum of \$7,229,919 has been reserved in anticipation of the first of a series of projects in the Northside area, and \$630,140 has been reserved for the "Jonesville" project, according to the congressman.

The federal funds will be used to finance a general survey of the two areas involved in urban renewal, a 35.96-acre tract West of Russellville Road known as Jonesville, and a 274.31-acre tract identified as the Northside General Neighborhood Project.

This initial survey and planning phase is expected to require from nine months to a year. After this phase is completed, it is expected that funds will be made available for the Jonesville project.

The survey work will be done by the firm of Scruggs and Hammond, planning consultants of Peoria, Ill., and Lexington. The firm was selected from a list of 15 applicants for the contract.

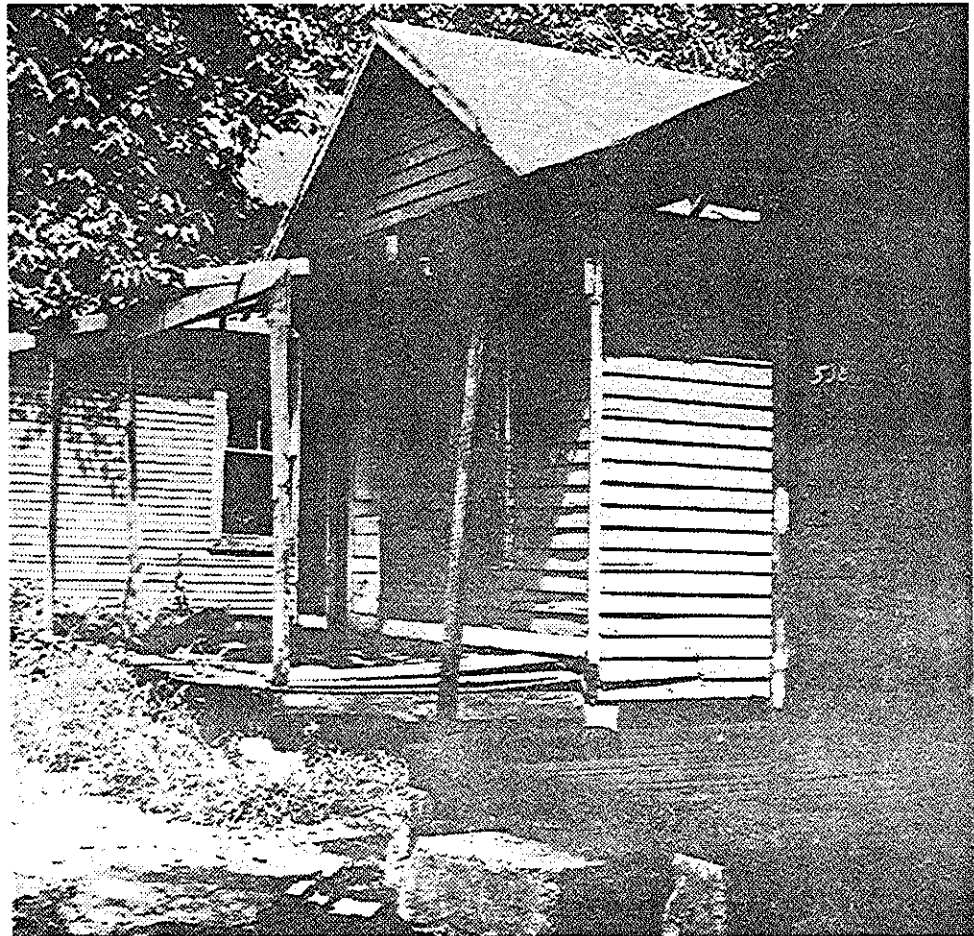
A preliminary survey has indicated approximately \$866,711 will be necessary for the Russellville Road project. In the area are 66 structures, all of which are to be removed, the land cleared, and other improvements installed.

* * *

Present plans call for the land to be used by Western State College for future expansion.

The survey shows approximately 71 per cent of the structures are deficient. Some 60 families will be relocated in other areas of the city by the Urban Renewal Commission. They will be given their choice of several homes in different areas of the city.

The displaced families in many



(Daily News Photo)

"RENTAL PROPERTY" such as this in Bowling Green's Northside General Neighborhood Renewal Project will be eliminated when the city's urban renewal plans are carried out, Rep.

William H. Natcher yesterday announced nearly \$2 million in federal funds has been earmarked for the project in Bowling Green.

Funds Set For Renewal Projects

cases may be able to take advantage of certain loans available from the federal government which will enable them to relocate in other newly developed urban renewal areas.

Preliminary planning for the Jonesville project indicates cost to the city will be negligible due to the large amount of "non-cash credit" for improvements in the area.

Under the Federal Housing Act, the federal government provides 75 per cent of the funds for the project — the city or local government provides the remaining one-fourth.

The act takes into consideration any improvements in the area, however, allowing the local government "non-cash credit" for the installations.

Credit is expected for improvements in the area by Western State College, land acquisition, clearance, and other improvements.

One of the improvements ex-

pected to considerably reduce the cost of both projects to the city is the construction of an interior traffic loop area through the central portion of the city and passing through both urban renewal areas.

• • •

The "loop" would utilize U.S. 31-W By-Pass in the east of the city, another By-Pass would be constructed southwest of Western State College to connect U.S. 31-W By-Pass with an extension of Adams Street near the intersection of U.S. 231 By-Pass and U.S. 68.

The Adams Street extension, connecting with the present Adams Street and Kentucky Street, would provide a completion of the "loop" area which would connect on the north with First Street, Adams and Kentucky streets would become one-way streets, providing a high capacity traffic route.

While the Jonesville project is in the process of being cleared, a further study of the Northside General Neighborhood Project will be made. The 275 acres are expected to be divided into approximately five smaller projects which will be surveyed and brought into the overall urban renewal plan over a period of 10 years.

Total cost of the projects is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$7,700,000. Again, non-cash credit will be allowed for

the area, and street improvements.

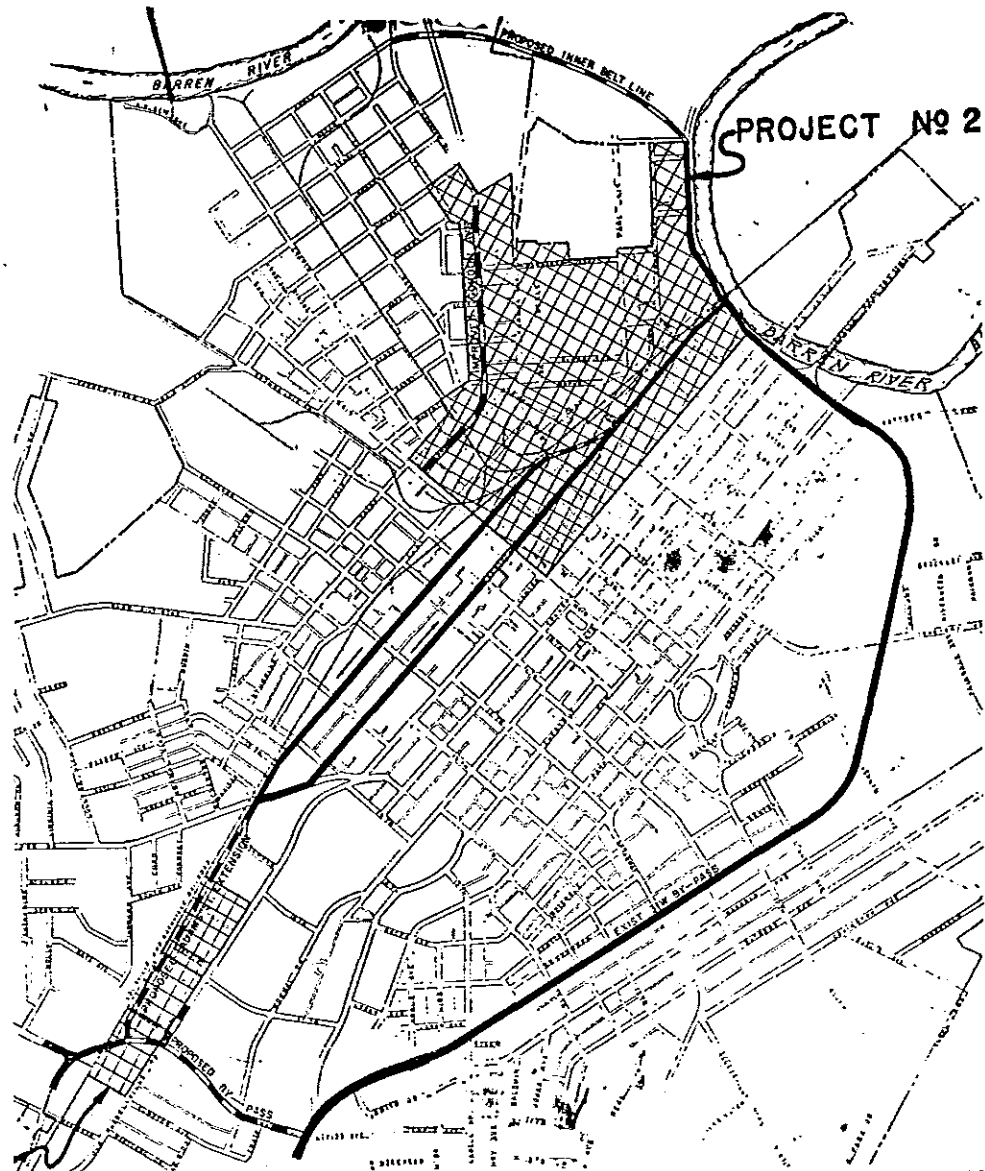
The area contains 731 buildings, 73.6 per cent of which are substandard. There are presently 615 family units in the racially mixed residential area.

It is expected that many of the families displaced in both urban renewal projects eventually will be re-located in new projects in this area of the city.

Expected to be the first area in the Northside General Neighborhood project to be totally cleared will be Main Street between Center Street and the L&N Railroad. Present plans call for clearance of all buildings with the exception of the federal building.

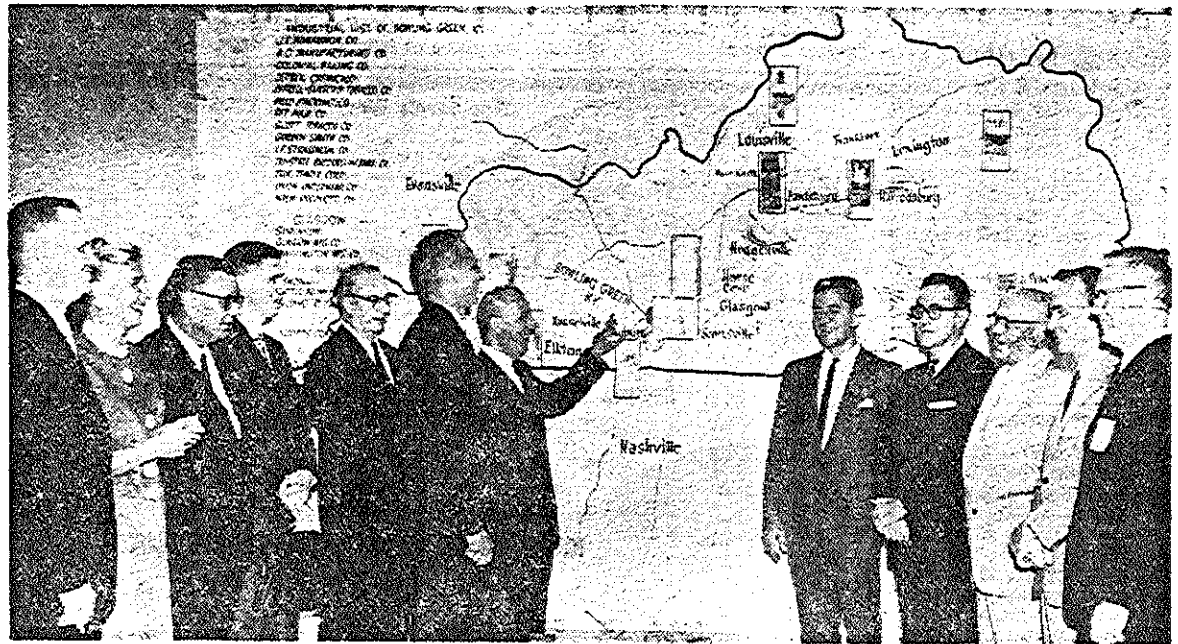
The area is to be developed into a revitalized commercial area. Evidences of interest have already been shown by several private developers.

Spearheading activities for the urban renewal projects will be the Bowling Green Urban Renewal Commission headed by Norman Lewis, E. T. Buford is vice chairman, and other members are R. D. Willock, Mrs. A. L. Bartlett, and Lester Reeves.



BOWLING GREEN'S LOOP DISTRICT is outlined on this City-County Planning and Zoning Commission map. Also shown are the two urban renewal projects being planned for the city. In the lower part of the map is the Jonesville area project involving a 34-acre tract, while the upper portion of the map shows the Northside General Neighborhood Renewal Project with approximately 275 acres. Connecting the two projects and providing a

high capacity traffic route is the "loop" area, composed of U.S. 31-W By-Pass, a new by-pass to be constructed southwest of Western State College connecting with an extension of Adams Street near the intersection of U.S. 231 By-Pass and U.S. 68. Adams and Kentucky streets would become one-way, connecting on the north with First Street.



BOWLING GREEN'S delegation to Atlanta on behalf of the Parker-Bennett urban renewal project poses before the City-County Chamber of Commerce exhibit set up in the Atlanta reservation office of Eastern Air Lines. From left are Councilman Harold Price, head of the Planning and Zoning Committee, Mrs. Shirley Lashley McPeck, a former city resident working for Eastern in Atlanta, Council President Ray B. Buckberry, Jack Eversole,

chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission, Duncan L. Hines, president of Board of Aldermen, J. B. Dalton of Eastern, Mayor R. D. Graham, Norman V. Lewis, Urban Renewal Commission chairman, Harold Huffman, executive vice president of City-County Chamber of Commerce; E. T. Buford, Urban Renewal Commission vice chairman and Bard Chestney and Hal Ritchie of Eastern Air Lines.

Parker-Bennett Renewal Plans

Chances Of Early Okay For Project Improved

The city's chances of getting routine processing schedule by the sales agent, formerly of this city. approval of the Parker-Bennett Urban Renewal administration. Some revisions of the drafts studied at the conference Friday were suggested by the Atlanta authorities.

The project application is being pressed with urgency in hopes of gaining some \$720,000 in federal grants through the community's qualification of credit for the Parker-Bennett School improvement. Deadline for the qualification is Nov. 7.

Officials hope to complete in nine months a process which normally requires two years.

Assurance was given the local group by the 11 or more federal officials headed by E. Bruce Wedge, urban renewal regional director, that the city's efforts to beat the deadline would be given consideration. The commitment indicates study of the project application may be advanced in the

Formal presentation of the Parker-Bennett project plans this week for approval by the Urban Renewal Administration's regional office will initiate the processing program.

The delegation was told processing of the Jonesville Urban Renewal project application is proceeding on routine schedule.

During the visit to Atlanta Friday the delegation headed by Mayor R. D. Graham, inspected industrial promotion efforts being carried out by the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce in connection with Eastern Air Lines.

Visitors were hosted by Eastern personnel including Henry McConnell, sales administrator; Hal Ritchie, supervisor; J. B. Dalton and Bard Chestney, reservations section managers, and Mrs. Shirley Lashley McPeck, telephone

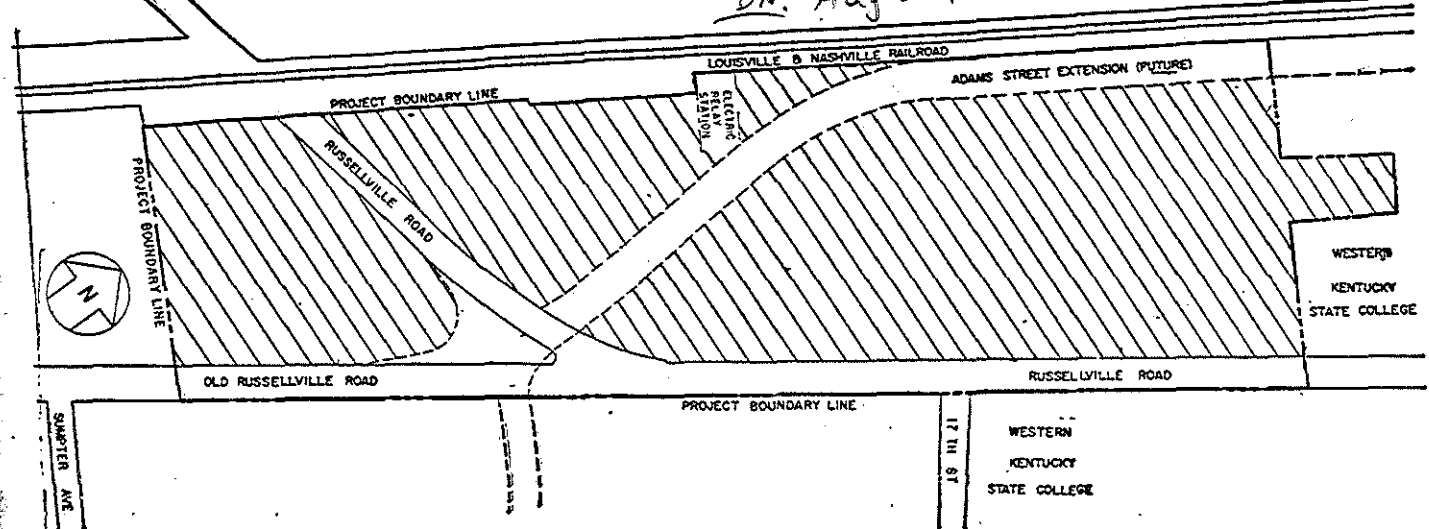
An inspection tour of Eastern's downtown Atlanta offices and other facilities and a luncheon at the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel were included in the air lines program for the local delegation.

Composing the delegation in addition to Mayor Graham were Norman Lewis, chairman; E. T. Buford, vice chairman; Charles Cherches, executive director, and Frank Newman, reuse appraiser, representing the Urban Renewal Commission; Ray B. Buckberry, Duncan L. Hines and Harold Price, members of General Council; Jack Eversole, Planning and Zoning Commission chairman, and Harold H. Huffman, Chamber of Commerce executive vice president.

**RADIO BATTERIES
ALL MAKES, MODELS
CHES JOHNSON
PHOTO CENTER**

File under
Urban Renewal

DN. Aug 25, 1963



JONESVILLE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT boundary lines are shown on this map. The shaded areas are scheduled to be acquired through the program by Western State College. Dotted lines show proposed extension of Adams Street

to connect U. S. 231 and U. S. 68 (Russellville Road) with U. S. 31-W north. Recent land acquisitions by Western State College in the area and improvements on its adjacent campus contributed to selection of the site for urban renewal.

Right-Of-Way For Adams Street Reserved

Western College To Utilize Most Of Land In Jonesville Urban Renewal Area

(Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles providing details of the urban renewal program for Bowling Green. Today's article deals with the Jonesville Urban Renewal Project, approval of which is expected in the near future from Housing and Home Finance Agency officials in Atlanta. Information for the series is provided by members and staff of the Bowling Green Urban Renewal Commission.)

The Jonesville Urban Renewal Project adjacent to Western State College contains a 34.7 acres between Russellville Road and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

All structures in the area will be cleared except an Electric Plant Board substation.

Three major factors determined the selection of the Russellville Road site for urban renewal. The advantage to the city of non-cash credits provided by land purchases and improvements adjacent to the site by Western State College was a prime factor.

The site also contained some blighted areas and it is involved in an overall city traffic plan calling for extension of Adams Street along its north boundary parallel to the railroad to complete a proposed freeway from U. S. 231 and U. S. 68 to U. S. 31-W north.

The planned reuse of the area calls for the entire section to be purchased by Western for future college expansion. No other uses are planned for the area. The proposed Adams Street extension

will be surveyed and sufficient right of way reserved for future highway construction.

Cost of the project is placed at \$1,094,874.

The plan as submitted would require no cash outlay by the city. Land purchases by the college and site improvements will provide possible credits of \$232,000

which would more than meet the city's one-fourth cost of the project.

The city's participation would be solely from the planned sewer construction, storm drainage and water system expansion. The future Adams Street extension is not included in the cost credits. How-

ever, if the street is constructed during the life of the Jonesville urban renewal project, the money expended by the State Department of Highways would provide a credit to be carried over for application to the \$123,000 cost of the Parker Bennett School Project, reducing that cost by whatever expenditure can be allocated as a non-cash credit.

Credits on a proportionate cost basis listed for the Jonesville area include street lights, \$6,000; proposed sewer construction, \$24,000; storm drainage, \$2,100; highway drainage, \$5,000; electric substation, \$3,500; Western's land purchased and demolition of buildings \$171,000 and Western heating plant improvements \$71,000.

The Jonesville project and the Parker - Bennett School project combined will involve expenditures totaling \$4,581,641 and a direct cost to the city of \$123,000, the city's portion of the Parker-Bennett project alone.

All families and businesses in the Jonesville project area will be moved at the expense of the Urban Renewal Commission. All families who desire and qualify will be given priority to move into municipal housing, plans for which are in progress with the Ragland Lane site plan scheduled or final approval in the next two weeks.

All owners and tenants in urban renewal project areas will qualify for special government guaranteed loans at low interest rates up to 40 years to repay with only a \$200 closing cost. These

Boys Club Notes

This weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, our top Junior Leaders went to Cincinnati. They are expecting to get a lot of Boys Club training from the Boys Club Junior Leaders Institute.

The name of the site is Camp Lake Allyn. Boys sponsored for the trip are David Eakles and Bruce Jones, who will be graduated from the institute this year, and Grover Hubbard, Eulin Carter and James Spears.

On Monday the top boys went to Mr. Decker's farm for the most miserable days outing they have ever experienced. It rained all the time we were out there. Here are the boys that made the journey:

Raymond Burch, Carl Eakles, Monty Eakles, Jeff Kieffer, Diamond Spears, David Coleman, Eulin Carter, Grover Hubbard, Roger Jones, Alford Porter, Joe Coleman, Wayne Whitlow, James Spears, David Eakles, Danny West, Estill Hymer, Harvey

West, Mickey Bratcher, David Whitlow, and Martin Coleman.

The main game was won by Eulin Carter. It was called Pig. In our tournaments for the summer quite a few boys came into the winner's circle. Here are the tether ball champions for summer. In the Midgets it was Steve Causey. In the Juniors, Estill Hymer was the champ. For the Intermediates, L. C. Cosby held down the championship post. James Spears was the Senior champion.

For horseshoes it was Midgets - Steve Causey, Juniors - Raymond Green, Intermediates - Joe Causey, and Seniors - Stanley England.

The big winners will be here next week.

Our Boys' Club Board meets with the United Givers Fund Monday night. We hope all of our members will be present for this great affair.

Boys' Club is an agency of the United Givers Fund.

loans are made up to a maximum of \$10,500.

According to original time estimates, the Jonesville project is running slightly behind schedule. Plans called for land acquisition to get underway Aug. 1 of this year and to be completed by Feb. 1, 1965; for relocation of families and businesses to start Oct. 1, 1963 and to be completed by April 1, 1965; site clearance to start Dec. 1, 1963 and to be completed June 1, 1965; site improvement to start Sept. 1, 1964 and to be completed Jan. 1, 1965, and resale to property to be accomplished between No. 1, 1965, and Jan. 31, 1966.

As soon as approval is received from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, the Jonesville Urban Renewal Project plans will be submitted to General Council for final okay to put the project in operation.

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✓ 9/8/63

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(Daily News Photo)

PARKER-BENNETT SCHOOL URBAN RE-NEWAL PROJECT model illustrates street layout and overall design for the area bounded by dotted line. Heavy line traversing project in the foreground represents border of trees to screen residential sections from industrial and commercial areas. Identified in the model prepared by Scruggs and Hammond, Lexington, engineering consultants for the Urban Renewal

Commission are 1, Gordon Avenue; 2, 6th Street; 3, Clay Street; 4, Riverview Drive; 5, Northern Heights Subdivision; 6, Municipal Housing Project; 7, Duffey-McGriff Sausage Co., Inc.; 8, Parker-Bennett School; 9, Bowling Green Livestock Market, Inc., 10, True Temper Corp. The model will be displayed again this week at the Citizens National Bank.

Letters' To The Editor

The correct signatures of communications appearing in this column must be printed in all instances. Letters must be brief, not exceeding 300 words, and must avoid defamatory or abusive statements. The Daily News reserves the right to condense any communication considered too lengthy and to limit the number of letters on any one subject. Publication does not imply approval of The Park City Daily News.

Editor, Daily News:

I think it is most ridiculous that a local store is already displaying decorated Christmas trees!

What has happened to Halloween as a special day to children, and Thanksgiving as a special day for all Americans?

It's a shame that stores can't wait until right after Thanksgiving for such displays. I'm sure the public would spend just as much money, if that's what is bothering them.

Mrs. James Tarkington
1800 E. 19th St.

Editor, Daily News:

Last week a meeting of the Urban Renewal Committee was held at the McNeill School. In

this meeting several men spoke in the interest of urban renewal and tried to paint a picture of the program's help for Bowling Green, even though they know that it is one of the worst programs ever suggested for our city.

They were for the program because they are all getting or expecting to get some personal benefit or other out of it. Several of those speaking in favor of the program are on the payroll, some drawing \$7,000 a year and others \$9,000 a year. I, too, would support a program that was paying me that kind of money.

There were others who are not drawing a salary, but who spoke for the program because they are expecting other benefits. One of these told me some time ago what he had been promised to help get the program over.

This program, if it is carried out as the committee outlined it, will put Bowling Green in one of the worst conditions it has ever been in, for we are going to fight

Continued on page 23, column 3

Letters To The Editor

Continued from page 20

for our homes, and we will get help in some ways that may not be healthy for the city.

Here is the program as they outlined it:

1. They made known their intentions to buy our homes, whether we wanted to sell or not, and stated publicly that they have no intentions of paying us enough to buy or build without incurring indebtedness. They said we could borrow the money to rebuild, or rent from them.

This doesn't even make horse sense! I own my home right now, without debt, and they are going to buy it against my will, forcing me to go into debt to buy another.

2. They refused to offer any solution to the fact that 14 widows of the community would be put out of homes and cannot qualify for a loan when they are moved out. Nor can my church qualify for a loan to rebuild.

3. They admitted they have nowhere for us to go. They have no houses, no land, nor any prospects of finding any. They simply said that an office would be set up to help look for some.

I have helped people look for homes in Bowling Green for years and have not found them. The only way is for land to be acquired and the homes built, and they have no plans for this — only a project, and who wants to exchange his home for a project?

We cannot and will not accept such a plan.

This program cannot be carried out without the approval of the City Council, and we are asking you, the citizens of Bowling Green to rise up and tell the council we do not want this program. If you fail us and the council votes this program in, we will have two alternatives, and we will use either one or both.

The first thing we can do is to call in the NAACP, the CORE,

and the Southern Christian Leaders movement for aid. These organizations have long wanted to come to Bowling Green. There are several things they, as well as we, know need to be done here, but, for the sake of peace, we have kept them out. However, if you, the citizens, fail to help us, there will be no one we can look to for help but these.

The second thing we can do is go into Federal Court and sue those responsible for taking away from us our human rights. I have talked by long distance to an attorney, and he is ready at our call to proceed into Federal Court.

We do not want to do this. We love the peace and quiet and the working together of all as well as anyone. But we cannot stand by and see our homes taken from us with no satisfactory plans or prices established.

If the city speaks up to the council, we will keep quiet. If the city holds its peace, we must speak up!

Rev. J. H. Taylor
120 Washington St.

Editor, Daily News.

9/13/63
I read in the Tuesday's News a report from the Urban Renewal Commission that the Jonesville project was ready for step No. 2 and one of the prerequisites for this step is the vote of the City Council to go on with the project.

There are some things that I would like for our city fathers to know and think on before they

vote on the important subject. It may not change their vote, but it will let them know what the results of their voting for the project might bring to our city.

First thing it will mean is that some of the people that will be displaced in Jonesville may be the next door neighbor to our mayor, or to some of the members of the council, or some other officials or persons in the city. This will come about because Urban Renewal has not made a place for us and we must go somewhere. It is true they have spoken of the Northside project as a replacement place for the Jonesville people, but there are several reasons many of us are not moving into the Northside project. The first reason is we have chosen to live on this side of town because we wanted to. If we had chosen to live on the north side, we would have already moved over there.

The second reason we are not going to the Northside project is that we will not help some one make a negro ghetto out of the northside. That is the idea behind this whole move. Put all the Negroes in one section, and get them out of the way. Urban Renewal has been noted throughout the country for making Negro ghettos.

The third reason we will not go over there is there is no room to house the people of this section with the people of that section. The north side is already crowded. How then can 60 or 70 more families be crowded into that section. It will tend only to make a slum section instead of doing away with one, for the way slums are made is by crowding houses too close together.

You will vote for this, but you may be voting for the writer or some others to be your neighbor.

You may say the Negro can't buy in my neighborhood, but his is not true. There is not a neighborhood in this city that some homes have not been financed by government loans, and that alone will make your community easy for any one to move in.

We are not against Urban Renewal, but we are against it when it is being done against the Negro instead of in his favor. If Urban Renewal wants to do the right thing and wants this section, why not acquire some land below Jonesville and just move us out a little farther? University Drive, and two other drives below Jonesville on the Russellville Road has enough land for all our people.

We do not want to move into any other neighborhood. We are satisfied right here where we are. But if you insist on moving us, we may not be so easy to settle, and those who plan this program, and those who vote it into being, will be responsible.

Rev. Jesse H. Taylor
120 Washington St.

Dec. 3, 1963

Urban Renewal Relocation Plan For Jonesville Given Approval

General Council last night gave final approval to the Jonesville Urban Renewal Relocation Plan, the Jonesville Urban Renewal Project agreement between the city and the local Urban Renewal Commission and accepted bids on two revenue bond issues — one for \$425,000 for school construction and the other for \$30,000 for building expansion at the Wren Products Corp.

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The 20-year school bond issue was purchased by First U. S. Corp., Memphis, with interest rate of 5.25 per cent. Other bids were Cherokee Securities Co., Nashville, 3.682 per cent; Walter, Woody and Helmerding, Cincinnati, 4.789 per cent; W. L. Lyons and Company contention that the

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Jonesville

Continued from page 1

\$10,000 a year for a 10-year period less rental returns of \$1,500 a year, was given final vote by the Board of Aldermen.

An ordinance advancing Hoyt Miller to the rank of captain in the Fire Department to fill a vacancy created by promotion of Aaron Moulder to assistant chief, was given approval by both council bodies.

Advanced to within one reading of final passage was an ordinance rezoning property at 1364, 1366 and 1370 Center St., from residential to neighborhood business.

Given first reading by the Board of Councilmen was an ordinance rezoning an area on Woodford Street from Stubbins Street to the northwestern boundaries of 517 and 526 Woodford St., from residential to neighborhood business.

J. D. Turnipseed, municipal housing director, told the council the Municipal Housing Commission plans the sale of \$182,000 short term notes to take care of the housing project's financing until April 30, expenditures for which to date total \$146,965. The temporary note sales relieved paying interest on money not yet needed for the \$2,855,155 project, the director explained.

Mayor Graham was presented a certificate signed by Mrs. Marie C. McGuire, commissioner of the Federal Public Housing Administration, expressing appreciation for his services in the city's public housing program. The presentation was made by Turnipseed on behalf of Otto Mattei, local Housing Commission chairman.

An ordinance providing regulations for placing plantings and benches along city traffic thoroughfares failed to gain council support and died for lack of a motion for its passage. The measure was sponsored by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Commission
Engages Louisville
Counseling Firm

Skaggs and Hays, a Louisville bond counseling firm, was engaged by the Urban Renewal Commission at its meeting at City Hall yesterday to assist the commission in its financing program during the execution of the Jonesville and Parker Bennett School Urban Renewal Projects.

Employment of the specialists follows government procedure in programs the size of the local projects.

Don Watts, site representative of the Atlanta office of the Urban Renewal Administration, discussed technical aspects of

1/15/64

\$200,000 For Land

Western To Expand In 33-Acre Tract

By TOM DUNCAN

Courier-Journal South Kentucky Bureau

Bowling Green, Ky.—Western Kentucky State College will buy the 33-acre Jonesville urban-renewal area for \$200,000.

And Western President Kelly Thompson said yesterday that the school will concentrate all its athletic facilities in that area—west of Russellville Road and south of Western's new Academic-Athletic Building.

Dr. Thompson told a special hearing of the Planning and Zoning Commission that Western will build a football stadium in the area. It will share a common parking lot with the A-A. building.

The Playing Fields

He said tennis courts, baseball fields, physical-education areas, and the like will be placed there.

Also, he said, student housing, a high school to be used in teacher-training, and a rural-community meeting house may be built on the tract.

Dr. Thompson said all plans are subject to availability of funds and other factors.

He indicated no doubt in Western's potential for growth.

"Our enrollment at Western will be in direct ratio to the number which we can accommodate," he said. "I don't know how fast we will be able to build buildings."

10,000 By 1970

Dean Dero Downing said Western's enrollment last fall was 5,917. He said it expects it to rise above 10,000 by 1970.

Dr. J. T. Gilbert a member of the Board of Regents, said there is a possibility Western may become a university—"and that definitely would take a lot of room."

They spoke at a hearing to determine whether Western's plans for development fit into the City's master plan.

The commission will make a recommendation later to the City Council, which will relay its view to urban-renewal officials in Atlanta.

College Has Priority

Law gives the college priority on purchasing the renewal area just across the Russellville Road from the southern section of Western's campus.

M. M. Blewett, who has business interests in the renewal area, said Western "Has been

54 years in reaching an enrollment of 6,000....I think they're just a little bit premature in reaching out and grabbing Jonesville."

Blewett said renewal should work both ways—that Western has trailers "and some thrown-away buildings from World War II" on its side of Russellville Road.

No 'Doggone' Better

"Their side of the road doesn't look a doggone bit better than the other side of the road," he said.

Dr. Thompson said Western plans to clear that section—along with the present vocational-training school—to make way for a major classroom building eventually.

But he said he could not pinpoint plans or locations because of a number of factors. For instance, he would not say whether the student housing planned in the Jonesville area would be dormitory-type or not.

He did say that Western wants the present Russellville Road to be made a dead-end street inside the campus when through traffic can be rerouted.

If Land Is Acquired

2-16-64

Western Lists Plans For Jonesville Area

Plans for the Jonesville Urban Renewal Project area would include athletic facilities, a classroom building, student housing and an agricultural community center, if Western State College acquires the land.

Details of the college's development program were outlined by Kelly Thompson, Western's president, at a hearing conducted by a committee of the Planning and Zoning Commission yesterday morning at the Courthouse.

A football field is included in plans for the athletic facilities and the student housing may incorporate fraternity residence halls, Thompson said.

Plans for the rest of the campus

whold be complexes of classroom, housing and eating facilities.

Thompson said Western has only one-fifth the average land area held by colleges of its size across the nation, in pointing out the school's need for the Jonesville properties.

Dero Downing, dean of business affairs for the college, said enrollment had increased 33 1-3 per cent since 1961 as compared with a national average increase of 10 per cent.

School enrollment for 1955 was 1,684 and this year reached 5,917.

Based on the school's ability to move along on all fronts to provide facilities, an enrollment

of 10,000 is estimated for 1970, Downing said.

Approximately 2,800 students now are housed on the campus.

Downing cited acreage requirements for a laboratory school and other considered additions.

Restriction of freshmen and sophomores having cars here has aided not only in relieving the campus parking problem but that of the city as well, Owen Lawson, Western's director of building and grounds, stated. He said the school has recently added 750 parking spaces on the campus.

Thompson said he favored the

Continued on page 5, column 3

Western

Continued from page 1

rerouting of U. S. 68 and U. S. 231 traffic away from the present segment of Russellville Road which passes through the campus.

Proposal of a Wilbur Smith and Associates traffic study plan would extend Adams Street to connect with U. S. 68 near the L&N underpass and would dead end Russellville Road near its junction with 17th Street.

The need for additional space should Western become a university was cited by Dr. J. T. Gilbert, board of regents member.

M.M. Blewett, a Russellville Road resident and business owner, voiced objection to the college's use of the Jonesville area, stating it had taken more than 50 years for the school to get 6,000 students and there is no way of knowing it will grow any larger. He said if the school used the land it now has it could take care of its need.

Thompson said Congress has recognized there are not sufficient schools for people who want to be educated and for the first time has passed measures providing government funds for school buildings. He said the expansion of school facilities would mean educational opportunities for all persons.

In answer to the Rev. J. H. Taylor's inquiry as to when the Urban Renewal Commission would move further on the project, Charles Chermes, executive director, said approval of the college's development plan by General Council would be the final step before the project is submitted for the federal government's final approval.

Planning and Zoning Commission is expected to pass on the development plan proposals following the committee's report at its Feb. 25 meeting.

PK.C.14
2/27/64

Taylor Heads Group Opposing Urban Renewal

Distribution of information to property owners on urban renewal is planned by the recently organized Committee to Protect Property Rights.

The group will meet Sunday at a place and time to be announced to further its plans.

The Rev. J. H. Taylor was named chairman of the committee at its initial meeting Monday night. Protection of homes and business is listed as the purpose of the organization, the first organized opposition to Bowling Green's urban renewal program.

The committee will sponsor a film on urban renewal on WLTV at 6 p.m. tomorrow.

WATER SUPPLY

March 12, 1964

Petition To Protest Renewal

A petition protesting Bowling Green's two Urban Renewal projects is being prepared for circulation throughout the city.

The Committee for Protection of Property Rights, which met for its fourth time yesterday, designated attorney Aaron Overfelt to prepare the petition.

The Rev. J. H. Taylor, chairman, and Paul Brooks, co-chairman, were the speakers at yesterday's meeting. They said:

Improvement of blighted areas is the responsibility of the landlords and the communities involved.

A school (Western State College) has no more right to seize property than any other organization.

And it is not too late to stop the UR projects here.

Members of the committee planned to step up their campaign against the projects and said they will contact members of Council Council.

The council is expected to vote on the Jonesville UR plan for educational purposes and

March 13, 1964

One Committee That Should Receive No Encouragement

Citizens of Bowling Green should think twice before they give encouragement to the effort just getting under way here to block the city's urban renewal program.

In the immediate future, this effort apparently will be directed toward securing signatures on petitions circulated by an organization calling itself the Committee for the Protection of Property Rights.

Certainly this group has every right to carry on a protest against urban renewal, although it is difficult to see just what its leaders offer as an alternative aside from maintenance of the status quo.

Bowling Green's urban renewal proposal is divided into two parts.

One project envisions clearing of the Jonesville area, with the plan calling for Western State College eventually to expand into the area thus cleared.

It is quite apparent that Western is going to need this land in the years to come, and in fact the college already has purchased several pieces of property in the neighborhood, some of which already

serve as a site for the college's new Academic-Athletic Building.

This project seems to us eminently sensible, and it is difficult to conceive of any real grounds for objections other than those that would naturally accrue to persons forced to give up their homes or property in the process. But even this cannot occur without just compensation.

The desirability of the Parker-Bennett project likewise should be obvious to all who do not close their eyes to the need for rejuvenation and the benefits it would bring.

The Committee for the Protection of Property Rights suggests that improvement of blighted neighborhoods is the responsibility of property owners and communities involved.

We would agree with this premise, with the reservation that where this responsibility has been abdicated, other means are justified to accomplish the end.

We don't believe that anyone could successfully argue that this responsibility has been fulfilled in some sections of Bowling Green.

120 Washington Street
Bowling Green Kentucky
March 9, 1964

Dear Mrs.

We the citizens of the Jonesville community are asking you to vote against the ordinance making Jonesville a urban renewal project. If this ordinance is passed it will cause our property to be sold as slum property, and slum property sells very cheap. We pay out here the highest percent of tax in the City, and that lifts us out of the slum category.

We have no objection to selling our property to the State for the college, if the college need the property. But we want to deal directly with the State, and not have the urban renewal as a middle man, to take some of the prophet that should be ours. The State has bought property from us before, and have had no trouble at all in buying this property, and they will have no trouble in the future, if we can deal directly with them.

We have twelve widows in our community, drawing a small Social security check, that is too small for them to get a loan to help them rebuild, under the urban renewal they would not get enough to buy another home, so they would be put out doors.

Yours in Christ and for His service

JHT.

Rev. J. H. Taylor

Jonesville Project Established

Council Takes Final Action

General Council last night took final action to establish Jonesville as an urban renewal area.

The vote climaxed a two-hour discussion before a crowd of 250 interested property owners and citizens in the circuit court room of the courthouse.

Last night's ordinance, given first reading by the Board of Councilmen Feb. 17, clarified technicalities under a grouping of statutes as required by the Urban Renewal Administration. Previous approval of the stipulations had been given by the council in measures passed March 19, 1962, and Dec. 2, 1963, Charles Cherches, executive director for the Urban Renewal Commission, pointed out.

The urban renewal program for the Russellville Road area was termed a project "to square off Western's corners," by Aaron Overfelt, attorney for the Committee for Protection of Property Rights.

The college under congressional priority provision has the right to acquire the Jonesville project area lands for educational use.

Overfelt challenged the program on the ground that houses and businesses embraced in the area are not substandard and that no delinquency problem exists, and questioned Western's need for the land.

The Rev. J. H. Taylor, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and an urban renewal opposition leader, suggested property owners avoid urban renewal procedures to eliminate the "middle man" and deal with the state for sale of the land to Western.

He cited working conditions for the Negro as "very low in Bowling Green," claiming "10 are employed in the city's seven factories." Welfare is lighter in Jonesville than anywhere else and the community has no health nor crime rate, Taylor told the audience.

M. M. Blewett, Jonesville residential and business property owner, urged greater employment of Negroes by factories and a small real estate tax "to send these people to school to teach them to do these jobs." This he said would enable them to do their own work.

U. vid

Continued from page 1

choice of ownership and the laws violate the constitution," and advocated substitution of the United States Chamber of Commerce program.

Leonard Deloteus, chairman of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce industrial committee, defending the urban renewal said, "The future of the program is to help you through training which will be available in educational programs now on the planning board." One of these he said is a trade school four times the size of the present Western Area Vocational School included in Western's plans for the Jonesville area.

"Do you want these things that will help you in the long run? Deloteus asked in posing the question of the future for graduates of High Street School.

"There will be 1,000 new jobs here in the next 15 months and they will generate other jobs," the industrial chairman said, summing up the part Bowling Green's educational future played in the determination of Cutler-Hammer, Inc., last week to locate a plant here.

Urban Renewal Commission chairman Norman Lewis said the commission is a group of citizens dedicated to see that the program is run properly. "The urban renewal programs that have failed are the bad ones," he said. "Every one will be treated fairly and the courts are open as the final arbitrators in any situation," Lewis emphasized. Full responsibility for urban renewal in Bowling Green is in the hands of General Council, not Washington, Lewis said.

Kelly Thompson, Western president, said the college's position had been made clear at an open hearing on Feb. 15 and with the signing of all preliminary papers.

The school plans to spend \$191,750 to \$200,000 on the Jonesville property acquisition he said, citing the advantage to the community of federal expenditures in the program.

He said the college needs the

expansion, citing the growth of its student population which has trebled in the

know what the future rate of growth will be, but I can say it will be in proportion to the number of beds, the number of classrooms, library services and the number of faculty we can accommodate."

Western now has 141 acres, 7.7 acres of which are in the Ogden campus under lease to the college.

The college has 35 acres of undeveloped land south of 17th Street, and seven acres undeveloped north of the thoroughfare.

"The officials that brought this new industry to Bowling Green were greatly swayed by what they saw in the future of Western," Thompson said.

Cherches said the 1960 census records 78 per cent of the Jonesville housing as deteriorating or dilapidated. Warren County health officer Dr. L. O. Toomey, was quoted as citing lack of plumbing in the area as contributing to a health menace.

Opposition votes to the ordinance were cast by Councilmen Tom Carter and R. C. Shive and Alderman Henry J. Potter Sr.

A companion ordinance approving Western's development plan including the Jonesville area was moved to within one reading of final passage by action of both councilmanic bodies.

In other voting, final approval of Moss Johnson to the Water, Sewer and Sanitation Commission for a four-year term: William Riley, as a member of the Electric Plant Board for a four year term: James Martin Pendleton as a permanent member of the fire department: reappointment of Mrs. William Allender as a member of the Urban Renewal Commission and an ordinance authorizing return of the council to the City Hall for its meetings in April.

The Water, Sewer and Sanitation Commission was complimented by Mayor James H. Topmiller for its action in securing services of an independent consulting engineering firm for a survey of the water and sewer department.

The council accepted the offer of the Bowling Green Ministerial Association to have one of its members serve as chaplain at council sessions.

Two Votes Advance Renewal Planning

By TOM DUNCAN

Courier-Journal South Kentucky Bureau

Bowling Green, Ky. — Plans for a 34.7-acre Jonesville urban-renewal project here took two steps forward last night despite strong protests before an overflow crowd of 300 at a City Council meeting.

Neither of the two votes was final. One moved forward an ordinance clarifying technical language on the project. The other was first approval of plans for Western Kentucky State College to buy the area for \$191,750 to \$200,000.

Needed For Expansion

Dr. Kelly Thompson, president of Western, said the college's future depends on gaining this area for expansion.

Opposition to the project was expressed by Aaron Overfelt, attorney for the Committee for the Protection of Property Rights; the Rev. J. H. Taylor, M. M. Blewett, and Mrs. Charles Garvin.

Overfelt said that the urban-renewal agency "wants to take these colored people out of Jonesville . . . and square off Western's corner."

Need Challenged

"I'm not saying Western shouldn't grow, but I say before you take a man's home from him a need should exist."

Mr. Taylor said there is no health or disease problem in

Jonesville and the crime rate is low.

Charles Cherches, executive director of urban renewal, agreed the area's crime rate is low, but he said federal figures show 78 percent of the houses in the area are deteriorating or totally delapidated.

Hearing Set On Western's Development Plans

A hearing on Western State College's development plan will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission in the county courtroom of the Warren County Courthouse at 11 a. m. Saturday, Feb. 15.

The public hearing has been called in interest of the Urban Renewal Commission, whose executive director, Charles Cherches said it will concern the entire Western campus as presently situated and the Jonesville Urban Renewal development area which the colleges hopes to acquire.

The hearing will be to determine if the development plans for the campus and the urban renewal project area conform to the master development plan of the city.

Final approval of the Jonesville project plans, now under review by federal officials, is expected within the next two months.

March 30, 1964

Disquieting Assault On Urban Renewal

THE SUDDEN ONSLAUGHT on the urban renewal program may strike the casual observer as a spontaneous expression of grass-roots disenchantment. But the fact that the federal program expires this year and Congress must be persuaded to continue it causes us to be skeptical. The timing and the nature of the attacks are disquieting.

Was it mere coincidence that the U. S. Chamber of Commerce chose to launch a full-scale attack on the program at this time? Or that an article by a Texas Congressman charging that urban renewal is shot through with corruption appeared in *Reader's Digest* this month?

The Chamber of Commerce campaign, it develops, stems from a high-level decision to try to discredit urban renewal and is almost totally lacking in support at the local chamber level. The United States Conference of Mayors reports that it has been able to find only five cities with populations exceeding 30,000 whose chambers of commerce are against federally assisted urban renewal. And these five—Rockford and Champaign, Ill., Arcadia, Calif., Sioux Falls, S. D., and Lake-

land, Fla.—are hardly representative of urban areas that stand to gain the most from the program. On the other hand, the Conference of Mayors reports that it has received 156 endorsements of urban renewal from local chambers in other cities. One wonders—for whom does the U. S. Chamber speak on this issue?

This newspaper has never contended that the urban renewal program is perfect. We have complained, from time to time, of the red tape involved, of some instances of poor planning and of other defects, including a lack of imagination.

But it would be folly to do what some of its critics suggest, in effect, and that is to throw out the baby with the bath water. Urban renewal is badly needed throughout the country and no one has come up with any sensible alternative to the federal program. It is absurd to imply that the job that needs to be done can be done without federal help.

No responsible Congressmen would even consider abandoning the program but instead would devote their efforts to making it more effective than it is now.

Sound Decision

March 18, 1964

General Council displayed sound judgment in declining to be swayed by opposition to the Jonesville Urban Renewal project.

Although well intentioned, the opposition to urban renewal would halt programs designed to make Bowling Green a more attractive, better planned and more progressive city.

The Jonesville project is important to the future development of Western State College, the area being one in which it would be natural for Western to expand. But it also is an area in need of renewal and hence a logical choice for a program such as contemplated.

Recognizing that the Jonesville proposal is the result of good common-sense planning and certain to benefit the entire community, the council quite properly discounted arguments presented in opposition and gave due weight to assurances of community and college leaders.

The result was final approval of the project and a victory for that part of Bowling Green's citizenry that believes the coming Green's progress and the public welfare will be served by properly planned projects designed to renew certain older portions of the city.

We commend General Council on a forward-looking move.

Letters To The Editor

The correct signatures of communications appearing in this column must be printed in all instances. Letters must be brief, not exceeding 300 words, and must avoid defamatory or abusive statements. The Daily News reserves the right to condense any communication considered too lengthy and to limit the number of letters on any one subject. Publication does not imply approval of The Park City Daily News.

Editor, Daily News:

As we enter a new year, there are many who will enter new paths. There will be many new opportunities for many people. But for the Negro citizens of the Jonesville community, it will be the same sad story that it has been for the past two years: The city of Bowling Green, with its Urban Renewal project and several Negroes who do not live in our community, and certainly have no heart for the people, joining together to take from us our homes bought and paid for with our blood, sweat and tears.

One or two families sold because they wished to; but there were others forced out of their homes.

There are a number of us who remain ready to stand fast until this program is carried out just as the federal government requires. We shall not be moved.

We are not afraid of any law suits, in fact we welcome such suits. We will not be made to sell by fear of mortgage foreclosures, because no mortgages are held on many homes. We will not be moved by those in our race who come in this way.

In fact, we are not moved by the program, it is our own choice. It should be.

Many of those who have had to sell have come out on the losing side. When the mortgage was paid, they did not have enough to buy a lot, much less a new home.

I have on my desk an offer from Urban Renewal to buy our church. The price offered would not buy the ground, to say the least. I also have on my desk an offer to buy my home; and this like the church offer is not much more than a lot would cost.

We have settled down for another year's struggle. And we are determined not to be moved. We will be right here at this time next year unless a big change is made in the program.

Rev. J. H. Taylor
120 Washington St.

Letters To The Editor

The correct signatures of communications appearing in this column must be printed in all instances. Letters must be brief, not exceeding 300 words and must avoid defamatory or abusive statements. The Daily News reserves the right to condense any communication considered too lengthy and to limit the number of letters on any one subject. Publication does not imply approval of The Park City Daily News.

Editor, Daily News:

I am a student at St. Maur's Seminary at South Union, and have a number of friends in the Bowling Green community. It is because of my closeness to the community and because of the fact that I profess to be a Christian that I am writing this letter to you.

I have heard it said that there is no Negro or civil rights problem in Bowling Green and I have had numerous facts quoted to me in defense of this stand.

Perhaps some people do not see the problems for it is a proven fact that seeing is extremely difficult if one closes his eyes to the facts. I have been only squinting the past few weeks and have discovered a number of areas that involve serious problems. Some may not wish to call them civil rights problems, but a skunk under any other name smells just as bad.

We might consider the injustices that are being perpetrated against the High Street School under the guise of integration; we might look at the low prices being offered to

friends in the Jonesville area, providing these people with great problems of housing and subsistence, so that a great football stadium might be erected in the community. (No doubt this would be a beautiful landmark for the community, but do you beautify a city by stepping on the already downtrodden citizens?) Or one might investigate the city organizations and find out how many positions are held by our brothers of the minority who are equal citizens with all in this community. Or again, we might look at the employment situation where the letter but not always the spirit of integration is being maintained.

These are only a few of the many things I could mention. If you can see no problems I ask you to open your eyes or at least take off those glasses that only let you see one color and look again.

A great revolution and a long overdue revolution is going on in our country today and we cannot sit back and expect it to pass us by. Bowling Green must play its part in this great resurrection of truth and justice, and now is the time to begin. With positive action on the part of the people and the leaders we can eliminate the need for more drastic measures in the pursuit of righteousness but not if we wait much longer.

Letters

Continued from page 4

We must no longer see black and white, but we must see men created in the image and likeness of their Maker; we must see our brothers and fellow citizens in all men; we must see fellow Christians who are worshipping the same God — our God who is color blind!

C. L. White
St. Maur's Seminary
South Union, Ky.



CURTAIN-RAISER—It was an equal exchange near Untersuhl, West Germany, recently when the Iron Curtain lifted as East and West swapped the trucks, above. Communist East German military truck, left, in which a defector had escaped to West Ger-

many, was exchanged for a West German army used by a West German to cross over to Communism.

Okay Part Of Jonesville Project

Approval of Part 1 of the Jonesville Urban Renewal Project was received this morning from E. Bruce Wedge, regional director of the Urban Renewal Administration, Atlanta.

Announcement of the approval was made by Charles Cherches, local urban Renewal executive director.

A grant totaling \$614,753 has been reserved by the Urban Renewal Commission in Washington for the project. Wedge stated.

Approval of the initial portion of the two-part application authorizes the commission to proceed with steps of the second part which include a public hearing, approval of General Council for participation in the project and preliminary negotiations for the acquisition and resale of property in the area.

The project application as originally submitted will require no financing by the city since credits for improvements in the area will offset the city's portion of the cost.

Date for the public hearing will be set as soon as possible, Cherches said.

The commission has 30 months from the approval date of Part 2 of the application to complete the project.

Plans call for the land to be used for college expansion purposes and officials of Western State College have indicated an interest in its purchase.

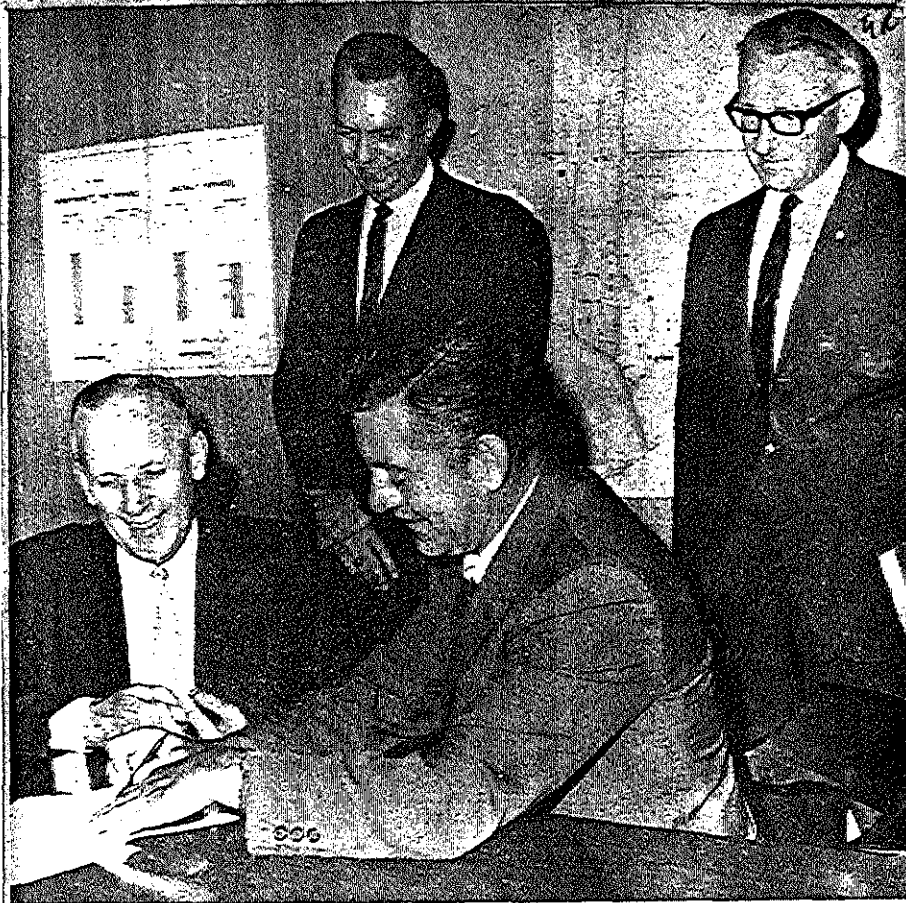
An extension of Adams Street to connect with U.S. 231 and U.S. 68 is considered in the application.

Cherches said he could make no estimate as to when Part 2 of the application will be ready to file with the Atlanta office.

Approval of Part 1 of Parker-Bennett School Urban Renewal Project recently submitted is pending at the Atlanta office.

William Turner and Fain Weems, field representatives from Atlanta, conferred here today with Cherches and Arch Daniel, project manager, on routine details of the projects.

9/10/65



LAND TRANSFERRED—Dr. Kelly Thompson, Western Kentucky University president, and Norman Lewis, Urban Renewal Commission chairman, (seated left to right) sign a deed conveying 8.05 acres of land to the university. Looking on (standing left to

(Daily News Photo)
right) are Arch Daniel, Urban Renewal manager, and John Milliken, attorney for the commission. The land will be used for the construction of a \$3.5 million athletic complex by the university.

For Athletic Complex

URC Conveys Land To WKU

The Urban Renewal Commission this morning conveyed 8.05 acres of land where Western Kentucky University will construct a \$3.5 million athletic complex to the university.

* * *

The purchase price for the land, the first section to be transferred from the 30-acre Jonesville Urban Renewal project, was \$54,361.

The deed was signed on behalf of the university by President Kelly Thompson and on behalf of the commission by its chairman, Norman Lewis.

The university's board of regents Thursday authorized Thompson to proceed with construction of the complex. It will include a 16,000 seat multipurpose stadium with 12 classrooms, 24 offices and necessary auxiliary facilities, a playing field, track, adjacent practice field, tennis courts and baseball field.

Bids on phase one of the project, which is the mechanical portion of the building, will be received Aug. 23 and bids for phase two, which includes general construction, lighting and other portions of the project, will be received Aug. 30.

* * *

Construction time for the first phase of the project is expected to be 18 months following the award of the contract and university officials hope the second phase will be completed at the same time.

The transfer price of the land was based on value set by assessors. It will generally be bordered by U.S. 68 and U.S. 231, a street formerly known as Hardin Avenue and the L&N Railroad right-of-way.

It is located immediately southwest of Diddle Arena.

Jonesville Urban Renewal
Development

Jonesville Acquisition Completed

The acquisition of land for the 30-acre Jonesville Urban Renewal Area has been completed at a purchase cost of \$674,446, according to an urban renewal report submitted Monday night to General Council.

Alderman Ray Buckberry, chairman of the General Council Urban Renewal Committee, told other council members the fact that acquisition was completed without condemnation jury trials reflects the honesty and fairness of the Urban Renewal Commission in the project.

The report, prepared by Arch Daniel, executive director, said the acquisitions have been completed within the framework of the budgeted funds approved by General Council.

The actual expenditures were \$63,278 below the \$737,724 budgeted for land purchases.

Negotiations for the final parcels of land contained in the renewal area were completed Saturday, according to Daniel. The parcels included about 1.5 acres occupied by the Edgemoor Shopping Center.

About 23 acres of land in the area has been conveyed to Western Kentucky State University for a price of \$163,390, according to the report, and the total received from Western will rise to \$191,750 when final conveyance to the university is completed.

The area will be the site of a Western athletic complex.

The report said proceeds from the sale of land along with non-cash credits available will allow the project to be closed out without cost to the city.

The report said that a total of 36 families living in the area were relocated to private and municipal housing and that eight individuals were relocated to either private or municipal housing.

Three families and one individual living within the area have moved out of state and there are one family and 10 businesses remaining to be relocated, according to the report.

Urban Renewal Offer For Shopping Center Studied

If three owners of the Edgemoor Shopping Center accept an Urban Renewal offer, the Morgantown Road location will become Western University property.

Floyd Cook, who owns a one-third share, said Urban Renewal Commission head Arch Daniel made the offer, which the owners have not yet accepted. The other partners are Mr. and Mrs. William McClave, Franklin, and Mrs. Mary G. Willard, of Florida.

The shopping center, built in 1951, houses 12 stores and offices: a doughnut shop, restaurant, barber shop, grocery, office equipment store, rent-all center, record shop, washeteria, pizza place, Machinists' union office, and beauty shop.

A geological survey office was located there but recently moved.

The shopping center is located in the Jonesville vicinity, much of which the University has acquired through Urban Renewal.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES

Depression, Western's expansion affected town's black community

By PEGGY BUSH D.N.
Contributing Writer

In the years before the Depression there was a thriving business and professional black community in Bowling Green.

Maereeth Kurykendall Whitlow remembers some of the businesses: Eliza Loving, a barber and foot doctor on Main Street; Tom Harris' block below Kentucky and Adams streets; Mattie Porter's shoe shop; Dr. Cabell's drug store; Mrs. Butler's grocery on Center and Third streets; Mrs. Mattie Covington's Southern Queen, Second and State; Sarah Brown's rooming house, Third and Chestnut; Frank Hardin's barbecue; dry cleaners Owen Brown at Third and Chestnut and Mrs. Burney Proyor in the Helm Hotel; Able and Kurykendall funeral homes; Elsie Potter's blacksmith shop on Kentucky Street between 6th and 7th streets, and the cab company that charged 25 cents for rides.

"There were the dentists, Yarbrough and Young, and medical doctors Beckett, Bruton and Z.K. Jones," Mrs. Whitlow said.

"Dr. Jones owned the Briggs Furniture Store, building and nearly a block between College and Center streets. He had worked on the railroad to earn money to go to college. Mr. E. Jones wrote in his book about Z.K. that the doctor never sent out statements for his services. He said, 'If they are going to pay



MAEREETH
KURYKENDALL WHITLOW

me, they will; if not, there's no use in wasting time sending out statements."

"Ora Porter was the first black trained nurse in the city; she encouraged the Petticott twins to study nursing. One became an R.N. and the other a L.P.N., but they had to leave the city to find jobs. Lillian Carpenter, the first black music teacher in Bowling Green, taught at Delafield in a school named for her father."

John Brider would cut 10 cents' worth of cheese or meat in his grocery at Third and Chestnut. Veigle Kurykendall was one of

the first black mail carriers. Annie Willis was the first black woman hired at the Post Office and was also a beautician.

"Joe Lillard was the first antique dealer in Bowling Green and had both black and white customers. Phoebe Whitney, his niece, and I would stay there when he had to go out of town on business. One of Mrs. Loving's daughters taught music in Atlanta; the other was a beautician and formulated a hair tonic for blacks that was known over the world. Roland Bland, head cook at the Helm Hotel, was assistant to Coach Diddle. He and Alice had a home at 4th and Chestnut. Mr. Bland was always interested in football and would take boys out to practice in a vacant lot near 3rd Street. The park is named for him."

The black community, Jonesville, on Russellville Road, had three churches.

"Most of the homeowners were older," Mrs. Whitlow recalled. "It was a real neighborhood. We had our own ball games. I taught Sunday School and often had 40 or 50 children in class. Then Western needed room to expand and the area was cleared. The people were told they could come back, buy lots and build homes. It didn't work out that way. One lady who was relocated then will probably be moved again to make way for progress. Some of the black downtown businesses were bought out, others lost their

places during the Depression. Dr. Jones and Miss Butler stayed longer than others. Dr. Jones' home still stands on State Street; for awhile Pen & Paper Inc. was in it."

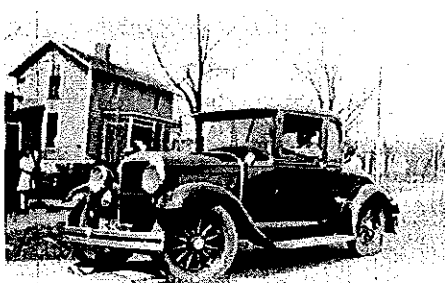
Mrs. Whitlow came to Bowling Green in 1927 to attend the Rev. and Mrs. Wolfe's private Bowling Green Academy.

"Drakesboro had no black high school. If it were not for the Academy I would have had to go to Nashville or Louisville. We learned Latin, Cicero, Virgil, Spanish and geometry, as well as other subjects. I graduated second in my class."

For 15 years, Mrs. Whitlow was a social worker for the Southern Kentucky Community Action Agency.

"We tried to improve people's lives," she said. "Joan Collier and I went to six counties to the homes to ask how many lived there and the ages and what they would like to change in their lives. George Morrison, a black man, and Henry Alden, a white man, wrote the Model Cities Program. Judge Griffin provided the facilities. Head Start began in a house next to the State Street Baptist Church. I did the cooking and teaching. We expanded the program and adult education was offered at Rockfield."

Mrs. Whitlow works as a nurse for Miss Margie Helm and is active in the State Street Baptist Church.



This car is evidence that this was a prosperous community. If you look closely at the house in the background, you can see that the two-story house is also evidence of this prosperity.

ON THE COVER
Mt. Zion Baptist Church

... I can see the little church, sit'n
by the railroad tracks, just a little
old place, where we use to sing
Amazing Grace, talk'n about a good
time, a mighty, mighty, good time.

This pamphlet is
provided with funding
through the Bowling
Green
Bicentennial
Commission

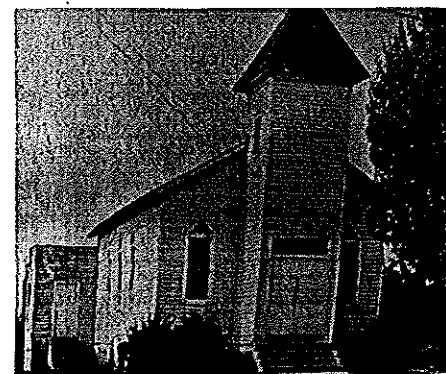


For more
information about
the Jonesville
presentation, contact
Maxine Ray at
(502) 781-5659

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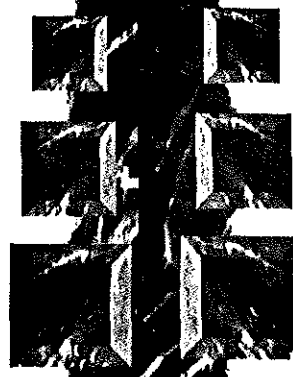
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JONESVILLE

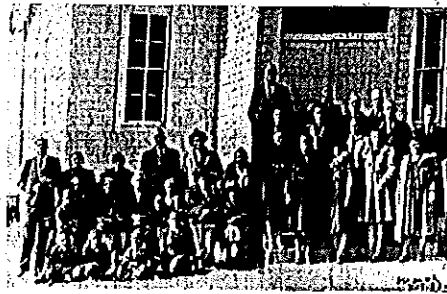


The Forgotten
Community. . .
1881-1967
. . . Remembered

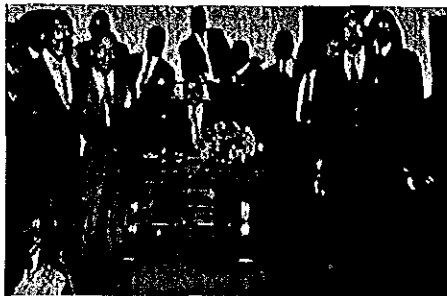
A presentation by
Maxine Ray



FEB. 1998



The church was the center of everything. Sunday mornings always brought out the best in everyone. Notice how well dressed they are in this picture.



The men of the church were always out in force. They were the leaders of the church. These were the most devotion leading, singing, and praying men in the world, at least to this community.



This is a picture of my family when I was a little girl living in Jonesville. It was the fond memories that I have of Jonesville that made me want to share this with everyone. The sense of family that was shared by this entire community cannot be described in words. Jonesville was a place where business owners lived, children played, families went to church together, and land that Western Kentucky University, then known as Western Kentucky State College, wanted. In order for WKU to expand, Jonesville had to cease to exist.

— Maxine Ray

Jonesville was a place of peaceful living, love and harmony.

— Marjorie Butts

The pictures used in this presentation are from the private collection of Marjorie Butts and

Maxine Ray. Some will be donated to the Kentucky Building on WKU's campus. At this time they do not have any pictures that acknowledge the existence of Jonesville.

This is just to remind some and introduce others to the proud community of Jonesville.



This is the Jonesville School which operated as a county school. While it is not certain when this school first opened its doors, school census were documented in 1906.

According to the Warren County School Board records, the school was in existence until 1910.

▲ On The Hill

Highlights of activities at Western Kentucky University

Residents recall Jonesville

By JASON RILEY

The Daily News

Time may heal all wounds, but it can't totally erase the past.

Especially with people like Maxine Ray around to remind us of it. Ray, a Rockfield resident, remembers a time when much of the Western Kentucky University campus from the parking structure to the overpass on Russellville Road was a close-knit black community called Jonesville.

She remembers the bitterness residents felt when residents of Jonesville had to leave their homes.

"We refused to sell our homes and businesses to the university, so the state came in and condemned the property and forced us out," she said. "They said it was a shanty town, but it wasn't. There were some nice two story houses in Jonesville. For the time period, it was a nice place."

But mostly, she remembers the good times in the community she grew up in.

"It was the perfect community for us," Ray said. "We all owned our own property; we had two churches and several businesses. It was a very close-knit community. Everybody knew everyone else, we worked together, played together and cried together."

The Jonesville community began in 1881 and ended with the sale of the last church in 1967. Ray grew up in Jonesville in the 1940s when the community had 65 homes

and between 400 and 500 people.

She will be presenting "Jonesville: The Forgotten Community ... 1881-1967... Remembered," on Monday at the Kentucky Museum at 11:30 a.m.

"It is a part of Bowling Green's history that a lot of people don't know about and a lot of other people have forgotten," she said. "But it is an important part of our history."

Admission to the presentation is free and everybody is welcome.

Also on The Hill:

Two Black History Month exhibits begin at the Kentucky Museum on Feb. 1: "Jonesville Water Colors" by Ivan Wilson and "Church by the Side of the Road Collection: A Pictorial History of Bowling Green and Warren County Churches with an African-American Heritage" with photographs by James Walker.

The exhibit "A Kind of Nobility: The Kentucky Orphan Brigade" runs Feb. 2 through July 31 at the Kentucky Museum. Opening activities will be at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 5, including an encampment of 75 Civil War reenactors.

The play "The Homecoming" by Harold Pinter runs Feb. 9-13 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 14 at 3 p.m. in Theatre 100 in Gordon Wilson Hall. Admission is \$3. Contact the Theatre and Dance Department.

Today — SKTPA Team Penning begins at L.D. Brown Agricultural Exposition Center and continues Sunday.

At 3 p.m., WKU swimming takes on Eastern Illinois at Preston Health and Activities Center.

At 7 p.m., Lady Topper basketball faces Arkansas State in E.A. Diddle Arena.

Monday — "Jonesville: The Forgotten Community... 1881-1967... Remembered," a presentation of slides and photographs by Maxine Ray will be at 11:30 a.m. in the Kentucky Museum Orientation Room. Free admission.

A faculty/staff/student social, sponsored by the Association of Black Students will be at 6:15 p.m. in Downing University Center Room 310. This is a Black History Month event.

At 7:30 p.m. the lecture "Racism 101" by Nikki Giovanni will be presented in Downing University Center Theatre. This Black History Month event will be followed by a book signing and reception.

Tuesday — An Electronic Research Workshop sponsored by University Libraries will be at 5:30 p.m. in Helm Library Room 108.

At 7 p.m., Hilltopper basketball faces off against Louisiana Tech in E.A. Diddle Arena.

Thursday — At 7 p.m., Hilltopper basketball takes on Florida International in E.A. Diddle Arena.

Feb. 6 — The Kentucky High School Speech League Senior High Regional Tournament will be in Garrett Conference Center.

At 8 a.m., Star Events for Future Homemakers of America will begin at the Academic Complex.

Daily News Jan 30, 1999

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Pick 3

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INDIANA: D: pot: \$8.5 mil

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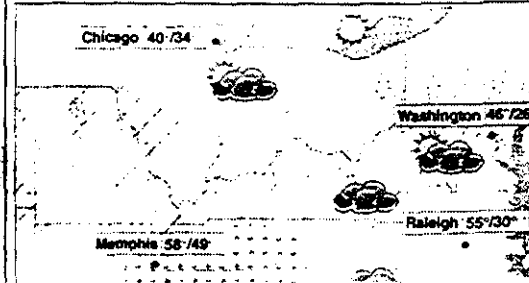
Estimat Estimato

▲ Weather

Regional weather

Saturday, Jan. 30

AccuWeather® forecast for daytime conditions, high/low temperature



JONESVILLE

In 1900 many of the African American residents of Bowling Green-Warren County lived in Jonesville, an area of approximately 30 acres where Diddle Arena and L. T. Smith Stadium at Western Kentucky University are now located. Jonesville stretched between Big Red Way, then Russellville Road, and the railroad tracks, and from Dogwood Drive to the railroad underpass.

Documentation gathered from property deeds and interviews indicate that Jonesville was founded by freed slaves soon after the Civil War . According to former residents, Jonesville was named after "Grandma" Jones, who probably owned a lot of property in the area.

The 65 homes in Jonesville, most of which were one story shotgun houses with large yards, were owned by residents. In the early 1900s, many people farmed and raised their own chickens, hogs, cows, ducks, and turkeys. Jonesville had at least one church, Mount Zion Baptist Church, and one school, Jonesville School, which belonged to the Warren County School System.

The community included many resident owned businesses. Some of these businesses were Blewetts Dry Cleaning, Willis' Beauty Shop (1920s), Withrow's Skating Rink, and Jesse Hutcherson's Little Pullman Barber Shop (1930's). In the 1940s, more businesses appeared: Henry Calloway's Grocery Store, Max Blewett's Service Station, Audrey Bailey's Beauty Shop, Daniel and Walter Byrd Paper Hangers, Mae Wade's Restaurant, Elvis Loving's Barber Shop, Lel Parker's Restaurant, Van Meter Restaurant, Pryor's Cleaners, Earl D. White's Restaurant, Voss Seamstress Shop, Candy Halcomb Coal Company and Nancy's Tea Room. In the 1950s, Bill Walker's Skating Rink opened.

Jonesville also had apartments and other properties for rent that became homes for many Western students when the school opened its doors to blacks in the mid-1950s. These students were not allowed to live in dorms until the early 1960s.

In the early 1950s, Jonesville was designated for urban renewal. The homes were classed as sub-standard and from 1955 to 1967, the Urban Renewal Commission purchased the entire area. Most of the property was transferred to Western Kentucky University. Black homeowners who had worked hard to purchase and maintain their homes found themselves at the mercy of a system interested in acquiring the property through eminent domain. Although some landowners who sold their property in the late 1950s received fair value, most did not.

On March 16, 1964, 300 Jonesville residents protested this unfair treatment to the city council but they were unsuccessful. Within a few years, the Jonesville community was gone and its residents were forced to relocate to other areas in the northern part of the city or to public housing.

Even though they were losing their homes, the hardest blow came in 1965 when Mt. Zion Baptist Church, established in the late 1800s, was sold and torn down. The money paid by Urban Renewal was not enough to build another church, so members and friends from across the state made donations to rebuild Mt. Zion. Until a new facility was built, Western let the church members hold Sunday morning services in a classroom in the newly-built Diddle Arena. Evening services were conducted at the home of a church member.

Most members of the community had grown up together. They went to school together, played together, worked together and worshipped together. There may be little or no trace that it ever existed, but former residents have vivid memories and still tell stories about living in Jonesville.

Students have Jonesville ties

Many tidbits of local black history, centering on the lost community of Jonesville, connect to Bowling Green High School students.

Former Warren Central High School student Nikita Stewart became interested in Jonesville when a teacher and native of the community described to her and others the tragic disappearance of the once thriving area.

Stewart interviewed several people and wrote an article for Western Kentucky University's student newspaper, the College Heights Herald.

Since then, the internal interest in Jonesville has gone public and, during Black History Month each February, someone somewhere does a story or a presentation on the people, the times and the place. But, almost invariably, the presentations focus on the lower end of the community, the part that stretched toward Russellville.

There's more.
Much more.

Here's some history from the upper half, which led to downtown



**Bowling
Green**

AKISHA TOWNSEND
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Bowling Green.

BGHS junior Tremayne Taylor's grandfather, Dan Taylor, owned a home in Jonesville on what now is part of the Diddle Arena parking lot. Sanitation trucks bearing his name still run the streets of Bowling Green.

The elder Taylor remembers Jonesville residents as Christian, hard-working families.

"The people were friendly and helpful to each other. They were like one big family of folk, all striving for a better day and enjoying the journey," he said.

The late Henry K. Alexander lived in Jonesville. He, along with

the late Doug Withrow, grandfather of BGHS senior Daniel Withrow, filed the lawsuit that first integrated Bowling Green schools.

Harry Taylor, who is Alexander's uncle and a cousin of BGHS sophomore Kammara Taylor, was a black musician who owned and played all musical instruments – woodwinds, strings, brass, percussion, etc.

Today, life-sized framed photographs of Harry Taylor travel the state museums and have been on loan to The Kentucky Museum on Western's campus. His sister Lucille was a mortician, and their cousin Wilma Blackburn was a florist whose waxed flower displays decorated many homes.

Their nephew Lockwood Alexander was a young entrepreneur who owned and operated a grocery store that served the community.

He gave it up to nephew Henry Calloway when he opened a black taxicab station and a small restaurant on Main Street.

That restaurant is pictured in "Families Histories of Bowling Green." Brother Tom Alexander and

cousin Ireland Hobson owned and operated a restaurant across town.

Separating upper from lower Jonesville was Audrey Bailey's Beauty Shop, which was patronized by folks from all over Bowling Green.

Will Taylor, father of Henrietta Taylor – who is related to BGHS senior Celeste Sears – had a small farm where Downing University Center now stands. Mount Zion Baptist Church stood near where L.T. Smith Stadium now is.

Tremayne Taylor said he has learned much about Bowling Green's black history.

"In the early part of this century, a lot of black people in Jonesville owned their own homes and had their own business," he said. "Living in the shadow of WKU was not all bad.

Being exposed to the sports around no doubt inspired Uncle Ron in his interest in athletics."

Other BGHS students also have ties to Jonesville.

There's much to the story.
Much more.

Making History

"Go and do it. You can do it." The advice of Maxine Ray is spoken from experience.

As a graduate student in the Folk Studies program at Western, Maxine knows being a non-traditional student is a struggle. For Maxine Ray however, it is also a story of personal triumph.

Born in 1945, Maxine Ray grew up in a segregated Bowling Green. Though she lived at the foot of campus, Maxine never thought about going to Western. Maxine's family was part of the Jonesville community, a thriving African American neighborhood destroyed by the Urban Renewal Program. As a child, Maxine enjoyed neighborhood birthday parties, baseball games and weenie roasts. Her family attended Mt. Zion Baptist Church, where, as she remembers, "Night services were the biggest crowd. A lot of the ladies worked in white homes. They had to give the breakfast and lunch meals on Sundays so they didn't get off work until after lunch."

"We were not rich with money, but we were rich in pride and character."

— Maxine Ray

A lot of women also worked on campus, as Maxine recalls, "People who worked at Western made good money and it was a safe place to work. The ladies could walk to work and take lunch at home." Maxine went a number of times with her grandmother who cleaned in the training school. Jonesville was a hard working community where people looked out for each other. As Maxine explains, "It was a precious community. You had to live there to understand. We were not rich with money, but we were rich in pride and character."

The loss of their homes and the community was devastating to families in Jonesville. Maxine remembers, "Western tried to buy the property but people didn't want to sell. For retired people living on social security, it was their property, their house, and they wanted to keep it. Western went to the State and that began a process where the State would come in and condemn the property. You had to take what they offered you for it. So around 1955, Urban Renewal allowed property to be bought by the State and they sold it to Western. The last piece of property sold in 1967."

While a justified resentment is common among former residents, Maxine has found her own peace with Western. "I see it as history, it happened and there is nothing we can do to change it. The people of Jonesville fought long and hard the best way they knew how to fight. It was the late 50s, integration was just starting in the country and you didn't know you could hire a lawyer to come in and fight for you."

Maxine was married and a mother of three children before she finished her high school degree. In between working, PTA meetings and Little League games, Maxine took night classes for the GED offered at her children's elementary school. "My children motivated me. I set very high standards of myself for my children. I never wanted them to see me drunk, or behaving badly and I wanted them to see me finish school to know that it could be done."

By 1978, Maxine was working at Fruit of the Loom as an examiner. One day, she saw an advertisement for Western and it peaked her interest so she filled out an application. As Maxine tells it, "I went and filled

out the papers, thinking I wouldn't be accepted, or maybe I was too old, but I got a letter back that I was accepted and I said, 'OK. This is going to be good.'" By taking one or two night classes at a time Maxine completed two full years of college.

Maxine's last day at Fruit of the Loom was November 25th, 1984. As she recalls, "You were just working everyday not knowing if it was going to be your last day. It really got hostile in the plant and people's nerves were on edge. The day they came in and told us that when we finished our line the plant was closed, I said 'Yes'."

After Maxine was laid off, she found out she qualified for a special government dislocated workers program and could get two years paid college tuition. It was a real break for her as she recalls, "I thought- great- now I can finish school. I knew there were grants, but I was afraid my age would prevent me from being eligible. I didn't know about non-traditional student status."

Maxine's first class at Western was African American Studies which triggered her interest in Bowling Green's Black History. As she says, "I started thinking about how Bowling Green was losing all of its Black History" So, she began writing papers about Jonesville and received a lot of encouragement from her professors. Her research progressed until, as Maxine says, "I had several papers, I knew my mom had photos in shoeboxes under the bed and I decided to do something with it."

Getting her first degree was a monumental event for Maxine. As she tells the story, "It was very special to me in December 1998 when I got my degree because the ceremony was held in Diddle Arena and that is almost on the exact spot I was born. I was super excited. I just thought, maybe I've done something my ancestors wanted me to do. By the time I got my diploma I was in real tears, it was so sentimental. First I had thought I would never have the chance to go to college. And then I get there and I felt like all of my ancestors were there cheering me on for doing this, for remembering them and not letting the memory of them die."

For Maxine, preserving the history of Jonesville has been a labor of love. She wrote and received a research grant from the Bowling Green Bicentennial Commission. She presented a slide show at the Kentucky Museum for Black History Month. Most recently, Maxine has worked with Western Kentucky University to have an historical marker commemorating Jonesville put up near Diddle Arena. Her plans for the future include a pictorial history of Jonesville and finishing her Master's degree. After that.... who knows what the future holds. Once Maxine puts her mind to it however, you can bet it will happen. ■

*~ Story by Shelly Drummond
Photos courtesy of Maxine Ray*



COMING FULL CIRCLE — From top left corner, clockwise

Maxine poses at 3 years old. Notice WKU's Tennis Courts in the background.

The Butts Family — L to R: father Othello, mother Marjorie, Maxine and sister Vivian pose in front of family home in Jonesville, 1948.

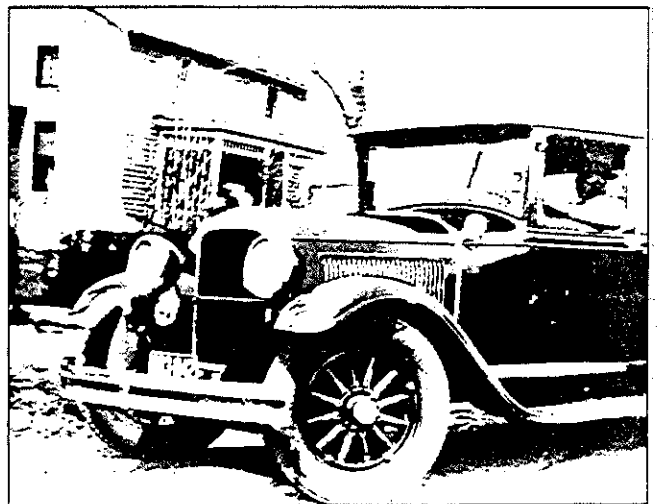
L to R: Maxine, 7, grandfather Robert Edison and Vivian, 14. This photo, taken in 1952, reveals WKU's old Agricultural Barn on the outskirts of Jonesville.

Maxine was born in this, her grandmother's house. The house and car tell of Jonesville's prosperity. Diddle Arena now stands where this house once did.

In the Jonesville of Maxine's childhood the church was the center of everything. This photo from 1943 shows the members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in their Sunday best. While the building was destroyed, the church thrives still today.



Ancestors and family look on as an emotional Ray receives her degree from WKU. The ceremony was held in Diddle Arena, almost on the exact spot where she was born.



Lost city

Apr. 7, 2001

■ Jonesville, a once thriving small community, gets its place in history

By STEVE GAINES

The Daily News

sgaines@bgdailynews.com/783-3268

Jonesville once was a tight-knit black community in Bowling Green, but it disappeared when the state bought its land for Western Kentucky University in 1968.

Jonesville will have its place in history marked Tuesday when the state installs a historic marker where the community was established in 1881.

The community encompassed an area from where E.A. Diddle Arena now stands to the railroad overpass on Russellville Road.

Maxine Ray, a Western graduate student in folklore studies, grew up in Jonesville and has vivid memories of life there.



Daily News/Joe Imel

Jonathan Jeffrey, special collections librarian at the Kentucky Library, shows a collection of pictures from Jonesville, a community that was displaced when Western Kentucky University expanded.

"There were 67 homes in Jonesville that just went out of existence," Ray said. "It was just a real close-knit community."

Jonesville was like a small Bowling Green, she said.

"There were two churches – Mount Zion and Salters Chapel – two grocery stores, three beauty shops, an elementary school and several businesses in Jonesville," Ray said. "We had everything we needed right there."

But an urban renewal program condemned the property.

"When we wouldn't sell, the state came in and condemned the property," Ray said. "Urban Renewal sold the property to Western for its expansion plan."

Growing up in the segregated South, Ray and her friends were barred from many of Bowling Green's recreational areas, so they made do with what they had in Jonesville.

"Our parents made sure we had recreation," Ray said. "Because of segregation, you couldn't go many places."

Ray said she really didn't know what was on the other side of The Hill.

"We had everything we needed in the community," she said. "We were really protected and sheltered there."

Ray has worked for the past year and a half to get a historical marker for Jonesville. The ceremony dedicating the marker will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at University Boulevard and Big Red Way.

Our Gratitude To:

Dr. Gary Ransdell and
Western Kentucky University
Lana Flynn, Office of President
Executive Administrative Assistant
Laura Harper Lee, Education Curator
Kentucky Museum
Monica Burke, Assistant Director
Minority Student Services, Western Kentucky University
Jonathan Jeffery, Special Collections
Kentucky Library
Nancy Baird, Kentucky History Specialist
Kentucky Library
Michael Ann Williams
Professor, Folk Studies Department
Western Kentucky University
Maxine Ray, Jonesville Historian
Graduate Student, Western Kentucky University
James C. Codell III, Secretary
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Lancie Meredith, Branch Manager
Traffic and Permits, Bowling Green Highway Office
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Kevin Graffagnino, Director
Kentucky Historical Society
An Agency of the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet

.....

*The Kentucky Historical Highway Markers is a program of the
Kentucky Historical Society in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation
Cabinet.*

For information about the program contact:

Dianne Wells
Kentucky Historical Society
100 West Broadway
Frankfort, KY 40601-1931



Telephone: 502-564-1792
Fax: 502-564-0475
E-mail: Dianne.Wells@mail.state.ky.us

Kentucky Historical Society Highway Marker Program



Dedication of Historical Marker for

JONESVILLE

*Tuesday, April 10, 2001
2:00 p. m.*

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER

Marker #2052

JONESVILLE

This African American community was founded after the Civil War. It was bordered by Dogwood Dr., Russellville Road, and the railroad tracks. The community grew to include several hundred residents, an elementary school, businesses, and two churches. Frame and hand-hewn stone houses lined the streets of Jonesville. Presented by Western Kentucky University

JONESVILLE

The lives of most residents of this close African American community revolved around church, school and family activities. In the late 1950s Jonesville was one of two areas in Bowling Green designated for urban renewal. By 1968 the state had acquired the land and sold it to the university. Presented by Western Kentucky University

Location: Western Kentucky University campus,
University Boulevard & US 68/80,
Bowling Green, Warren County

PROGRAM

Welcome

*Dr. Gary Ransdell, President
Western Kentucky University*

Invocation

*Rev. Porter Bailey
First Baptist Church, Rockfield*

Music

John Edmonds

Remarks

*Dianne Wells, Manager
Historical Highway Marker Program
Kentucky Historical Society
Sandy Jones, Mayor
City of Bowling Green
Mike Buchanon, Judge Executive
Warren County
Jonathan Jeffery
Special Collections/Kentucky Library
Lancie Meredith, Branch Manager
Traffic and Permits
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet*

Dedication Address

*Bobby W. Austin, President & CEO
Village Foundation*

Comments

*Maxine Ray, Jonesville Historian
Graduate Student WKU*

Music

John Edmonds

Unveiling of Marker

*Jonesville Descendants
Fanny M. Loving, Marjorie Butts,
Dan Taylor, Herschel Austin, Sr.*

BOWLING GREEN

Marker honors old black community

A Kentucky Historical Society highway marker was unveiled yesterday at Western Kentucky University in honor

of the black community of Jonesville, which once existed where part of the campus is located today. *25*

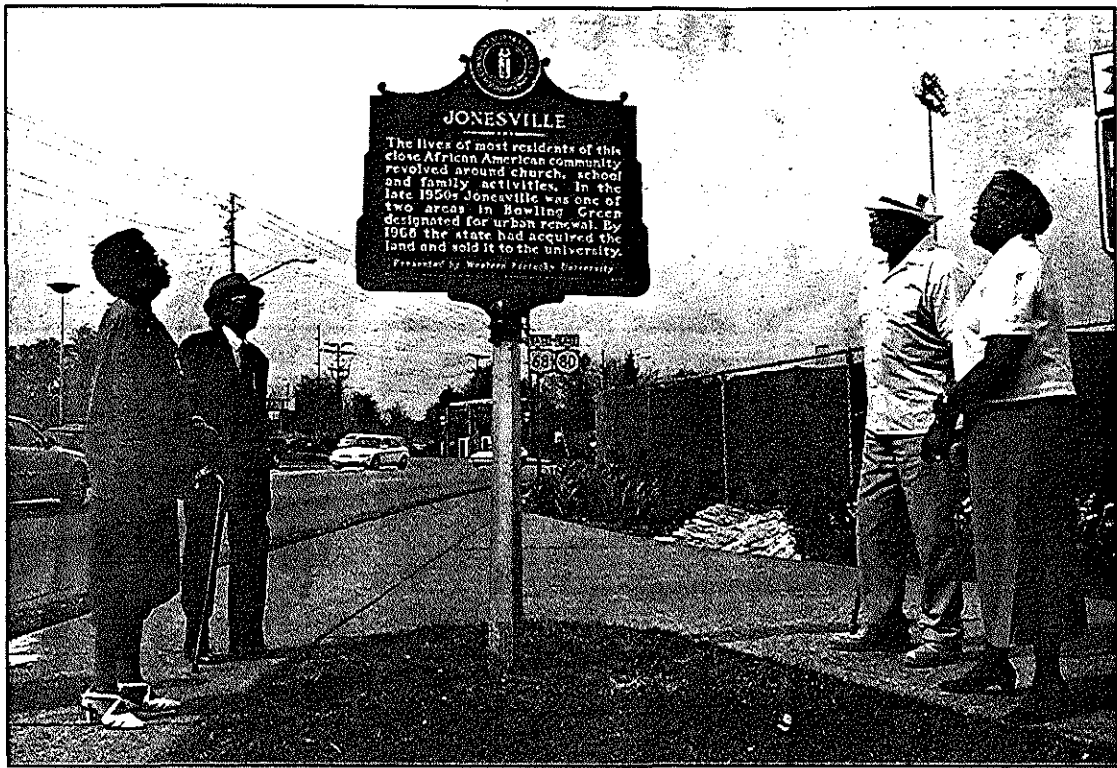
Jonesville was "our strip of heaven," former resident Bobby W. Austin said at the ceremony. *4/11/61*

The marker notes that the community was founded after the Civil War. It also says that in the late 1950s, Jonesville was designated for urban renewal and that by 1968, the state had acquired the land and sold it to the university.

WKU used the 30-plus acres for Diddle Arena, Smith Stadium and other facilities.

Marking history

APR 11 2001



Tiny community's roots remembered

By the Daily News

A Kentucky Historical Society Highway Marker was unveiled Tuesday on Western Kentucky University's campus to remember the black community that once thrived in the area near University Boulevard and Big Red Way.

Jonesville was "our strip of heaven," former resident Bobby W. Austin said in dedicating the marker.

"In our hearts we will carry always the love, the dedication, the patience and the goodwill of the citizens of Jonesville," Austin said.

Austin, a WKU alumnus and president of Village Foundation, also paid tribute to Jonesville historian Maxine Ray, a WKU graduate student, for her diligence in making Tuesday's ceremony a reality and in keeping the community's history alive.

The text on one side of the Jonesville historical marker

reads: "This African American community was founded after the Civil War. It was bordered by Dogwood Drive, Russellville Road and the railroad tracks.

The community grew to include several hundred residents, an elementary school, businesses and two churches. Frame and hand-hewn stone houses lined the streets of Jonesville."

The other side reads: "The lives of most residents of this close African American community revolved around church, school and family activities.

In the late 1950s, Jonesville was one of two areas in Bowling Green designated for urban renewal. By 1968, the state had acquired the land and sold it to the university."

Western used the 30-plus acres to build Diddle Arena, Smith Stadium and other facilities.



Daily News/Clinton Lewis

Maxine Ray (above) talks about her time growing up in Jonesville. Some of the community's oldest residents (top photo) including Fanny M. Loving (from left), Herschel Austin Sr., Dan Taylor and Marjorie Butts read the new marker.

Freeport endangered by transpark project

I would first like to applaud Maxine Ray and others for their work and dedication in seeing to it that the story of Jonesville is not forgotten.

While from one perspective, there is little that can make up for the tragic transformation of the Jonesville community into sports fields and parking lots, the recent dedication ceremony for the Jonesville historical marker is a significant step in establishing Jonesville's place in local history.

For those who were unable to attend the ceremony, I should also add that it was a particularly curious and ironic display by Bowling Green Mayor Sandy Jones, Warren County Judge-Executive Mike Buchanon, and Western

Kentucky University
President Gary Ransdell.

On one hand, they are celebrating "the spirit of Jonesville" while on the other, actively supporting the destruction of the next Jonesville: The community of Freeport.

Freeport is a small African-American community established, like Jonesville, at the end of the Civil War.

Whereas Jonesville was in the way of the expansion of WKU, Freeport, located just outside of Oakland, lies directly in the path of the Inter-Modal Transportation Authority's (ITA) proposed Kentucky Trimodal Transpark. The transpark would eventually be a 4,000-acre industrial park with (an) attached airport.

Unlike Jonesville, it is not yet too late to halt the destruction of Freeport.

For those who don't want to see Freeport (or Oakland) turned into a historical marker by a project, ... let Buchanon, Jones and Ransdell know how you feel. To them we should say, "Freeport not Airport!"

Josh Niesse
Bowling Green

Daily News

APR 25 2001

FEB 01 2004

Remembering JONESVILLE

Former residents look back on bygone days of their once-prosperous black community

ALYSSA HARVEY and CLINTON LEWIS

Bowling Green resident Maxine Ray stands on a hill overlooking what used to be Jonesville. The black community thrived for almost a century before being transformed by urban renewal and eventually taken up by Western Kentucky University's sports facilities.

Picture a community where doors could stay unlocked and strangers were welcomed for a heaping helping of Southern hospitality, including a meal and a place to sleep.

The entire community raises its children. They can play anywhere in the neighborhood and, if they get into mischief, their parents will know about it before the children get home.

The church is the center of the community and the neighborhood's residents learn about everything from Bible stories to etiquette. Families gather there for various fun activities, including wiener roasts, where people stand with unraveled clothes hangers, hot dogs stuck on the tips over an open fire.

It may seem like a fantasy to people today, but to the residents of Jonesville — a black community that thrived in the area near University Boulevard and Big Red Way from 1881 to 1967 — it was a reality.

"My mother always called it 'God's little acre,'" said Maxine Ray, a former Jonesville resident who worked to get state recognition

Black History Month in Southern Kentucky

A five-part Daily News series looking at historic black communities.

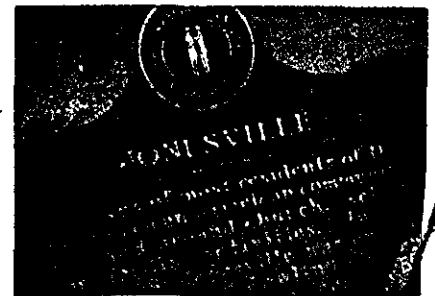
Inside: 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education brings added enthusiasm to Black History Month.

Page 11A

for the former community. "To us, it was the perfect place."

Established after the Civil War, Jonesville ran from Dogwood Drive to the railroad underpass. It had a Methodist and a Baptist church, grocery stores, three beauty shops, a restaurant, ice house, gas station, dentist, several stonemasons and its own sanitation pick-up.

"It was a community of entrepreneurs," said the Rev. Porter W. Bailey, a former Jonesville resident who is now pastor of First Baptist



A historical marker on University Boulevard, unveiled in 2001, is all that remains of the Jonesville community.

Rockfield. "My mother had a beauty salon. You had anything you wanted."

That was important to a community that existed during the years of segregation. Blacks couldn't go to many Bowling Green businesses and facilities that weren't in black communities, and they couldn't attend neighboring

See JONESVILLE, 5A

JONESVILLE, from 1A

Western Kentucky University, where many Jonesville residents — including Butts and Ray — worked.

"We weren't allowed in the Boys Club and Girls Club," Ray said. "So all extracurricular activities centered around the church. We had mother-daughter teas, father-son banquets. They taught etiquette."

Police didn't have any reason to go to Jonesville, Bailey said.

"We had no keys to houses. We didn't have to lock up cars," he said. "It was a very respectable neighborhood, and people respected you."

Parents in Jonesville made sure that their children didn't want for anything, said Marjorie Butts, Ray's mother.

"They didn't have the finest things, but they had everything they needed," she said.

Butts remembered holiday celebrations in Jonesville. She and her family would have five days of Christmas dinners in a different relative's home each night. On July 4, they would mark festivities with watermelon and a case of soft drinks.

"I still do that," she said.

Former Jonesville resident Nedra Smith said she used to enjoy the free weekly show put on by the Dr Pepper Co.

"They picked a neighborhood

and put up a screen in the clearing and showed movies," she said.

The key to the community's success was community.

"The family ties — everybody that came out of there cherished that," he said. "Jonesville made men and women out of us."

That mature strength was needed in the late 1950s, when everything in Jonesville came to a halt.

The community was one of two areas in Bowling Green designated for urban renewal, and by 1968, the state had acquired the land and sold it to the growing university. Jonesville's 30-plus acres ended up being used to build Diddle Arena, Smith Stadium and other facilities.

"It was like you were waking up in a nightmare," Ray said. "Nobody wanted to sell. We had no choice. The state came in to condemn the property, but there were no shotgun houses, no slums. Everybody owned their property. They were kept up."

Butts witnessed the demolition of one of the churches and the devastated tears that streamed down the faces of others from Jonesville who had come to see the last moments of their neighborhood.

"They bulldozed the church to the railroad tracks and set it on fire," she said, pushing her hands in the motion of the big machinery.

Life went on, though, as Jonesville residents found new homes and new lives.

"A lot of people bettered themselves, had better homes," Bailey said. "Most of the people I knew had some college. None of them went to jail."

Now all that's left of Jonesville is a historical marker, erected in 2001, that reads: "This African American community was founded after the Civil War. It was bordered by Dogwood Drive, Russel-

ville Road and the railroad tracks.

"The lives of most residents of this close African American community revolved around church, school and family activities."

Despite the disappearance of the community, Jonesville continues to live in the hearts of its former residents.

"I've lived all over the country, but there's no place like Jonesville," Bailey said. "This is home for me."